



**LAURIUM
CAPITAL**

LAURIUM HEDGE FUNDS

Quarterly Commentary | March 2026

Fund performance and attribution

March closed a tumultuous quarter for global equities. January and February chalked up strong returns, before the commencement of the United States-Israel-Iran conflict which saw markets retrace all previous gains to end the quarter flat.

Higher oil prices and the risk of energy shortages saw markets reverse previous expectations of rate cuts and benign economic conditions which had powered the market over the January and February months. Elevated energy prices, coupled with higher bond yields, saw domestic South African equities trade lower in the region of 10-15%. Of interest, gold did not perform its customary risk-off role (a risk we had flagged in our year ahead commentary) as expectations of rate hike in the US trumped geopolitical uncertainty in pricing the yellow metal. March was a particularly volatile month with the JSE reaching a daily low of c.-15% before recovering to end the quarter down 10.5%.

At the start of the conflict, we trimmed net exposure (mainly through selling domestic shares) and our option protection strategies mechanically reduced nets as market levels got closer to strikes. As a result, despite Fund returns being negative for the month of March, losses were substantially lower than that of the market.

Key contributors for the quarter included gold shares, diversified miners and AB Inbev, Detractors comprised the funds position in Prosus, a UK software re-seller and a coal mining short.

Outlook

As we write this outlook, the US and Iran have agreed on a fragile two-week ceasefire. Markets recovered sharply post this above announcement partially reversing losses incurred from the war's commencement. It is clear that Trump is seeking an off-ramp to the war given increasing local and international pressure and a looming mid-term election in November. Forecasting the various scenarios here is difficult. The two starting positions of the parties are far apart. Iran's 10-point plan (albeit an opening salvo in negotiations) has many demands deemed unacceptable to the US, including sovereignty over the strait of Hormuz and a right to continue some form of their nuclear program. So, despite both parties appearing motivated to end the conflict, there is no certainty that the truce will hold.

We are guided as always by individual stock valuation and where we see favourable risk / reward. In this respect, given the strong run in markets pre March albeit on the back of a very strong backdrop for equities and the large bounce in markets post the announcement of the truce, valuations are neither distressed nor adequately pricing in a potential return to conflict. As a result, we have maintained nets at relatively low and balanced levels.

We retain an absolute return minded strategy with risk management continuing to be a key priority as markets continue to trade through such elevated volatility. We will continue to focus primarily on bottom-up stock picking and valuation as our foundation.

Performance declaration for Laurium Long Short Prescient RI Hedge Fund (Class D)

	FUND	BENCHMARK (STEFI)
Annualised return since inception	+10.5%	+6.8%
Cumulative return since inception	+482.4%	+217.5%
Quarter to date	-1.9%	
1 Year	+13.1%	+7.3%
3 Years (annualised)	+10.0%	+8.0%
Highest rolling 1-year return (since inception)	+45.8%	
Lowest rolling 1-year return (since inception)	-24.0%	
Fund inception date (CIS inception date 1 August 2016)	01 August 2008	

Performance declaration for Laurium Market Neutral Prescient RI Hedge Fund (Class D)

	FUND	BENCHMARK (STEFI)
Annualised return since inception	+10.5%	+6.6%
Cumulative return since inception	+461.1%	+202.6%
Quarter to date	+0.9%	
1 Year	+11.6%	+7.3%
3 Years (annualised)	+11.5%	+8.0%
Highest rolling 1-year return (since inception)	+31.9%	
Lowest rolling 1-year return (since inception)	-10.8%	
Fund inception date (CIS inception date 1 August 2016)	01 January 2009	

Performance declaration for Laurium Aggressive Long Short Prescient QI Hedge Fund (Class C)

	FUND	BENCHMARK (STEFI)
Annualised return since inception	+14.9%	+6.6%
Cumulative return since inception	+531.2%	+132.4%
Quarter to date	-0.3%	
1 Year	+17.7%	+7.3%
3 Years (annualised)	+12.9%	+8.0%
Highest rolling 1-year return (since inception)	+69.8%	
Lowest rolling 1-year return (since inception)	-33.6%	
Fund inception date (CIS inception date 1 August 2016)	01 January 2013	

Performance declaration for Laurium Enhanced Growth Prescient RI Hedge Feeder Fund (Class C)

	FUND	BENCHMARK (STEFI)
Annualised return since inception	+20.2%	+7.8%
Cumulative return since inception	+46.7%	+17.0%
Quarter to date	-2.9%	
1 Year	+13.3%	+7.3%
3 Years (annualised)	-	-
Highest rolling 1-year return (since inception)	+28.0%	
Lowest rolling 1-year return (since inception)	+13.3%	
Fund inception date	01 March 2024	

Performance declaration for Laurium Enhanced Growth Hedge Fund (UCITS) (Class A1)

	FUND (USD)	BENCHMARK (SOFR*)
Annualised return since inception	+16.5%	+4.6%
Cumulative return since inception	+42.6%	+11.1%
Quarter to date	-1.7%	
1 Year	+14.0%	+4.1%
3 Years (annualised)	-	-
Highest rolling 1-year return (since inception)	+24.4%	
Lowest rolling 1-year return (since inception)	+14.0%	
Fund inception date	05 December 2023	

*The Fund does not have a benchmark referenced in the fund supplement. The benchmark performance shown is for illustrative purposes only.

Collective Investment Schemes in Securities (CIS) should be considered as medium to long-term investments. The value may go up as well as down and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. CIS's are traded at the ruling price and can engage in scrip lending and borrowing. A schedule of fees, charges and maximum commissions is available on request from the Manager. There is no guarantee in respect of capital or returns in a portfolio. A CIS may be closed to new investors in order for it to be managed more efficiently in accordance with its mandate. Performance has been calculated using net NAV to NAV numbers with income reinvested. The performance for each period shown reflects the return for investors who have been fully invested for that period. Individual investor performance may differ as a result of initial fees, the actual investment date, the date of reinvestments and dividend withholding tax. Full performance calculations are available from the manager on request. Highest and lowest returns for any 1 year over the period since inception have been shown. NAV is the net asset value represents the assets of a Fund less its liabilities. The forecasts are based on reasonable assumptions, are not guaranteed to occur and are provided for illustrative purposes only. The Laurium Aggressive Long Short Prescient QI Hedge Fund is available to qualified investors only. The Laurium Enhanced Growth Hedge Fund (UCITS) is registered and approved under section 65 of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act 45 of 2002.

Annualised performance: Annualised performance shows longer term performance rescaled to a 1-year period. Annualised performance is the average return per year over the period. Actual annual figures are available to the investor on request.

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